

REMARKS

A Request for Continued Examination accompanies this paper for the purpose of removing the finality of the pending Office Action. Accordingly, it is requested that the Examiner enter the above-noted claim amendments and consider the amended claims on the merits.

Claims 11-13, 15-17, 28 and 29 are in the application, with Claims 11 and 15 having been amended, with Claim 14 having been cancelled, and with Claims 28 and 29 having been added. Claims 11, 28 and 29 are the independent claims herein. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

It is noted with appreciation that former claim 14, as well as claims 15 and 17, all as presented in the immediately preceding Amendment filed herein, have been found by the Examiner to recite allowable subject matter, although objected to on formal grounds.

Claim 11 has now been amended so as to incorporate the limitation of former claim 14 and so is identical in scope to former claim 14, thereby reciting the subject matter of claim 14 which the Examiner considered to be allowable. Claim 11 is therefore believed now to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 12, 13 and 15-17 are all dependent on claim 11 and so are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

New claim 28 is in independent form and is identical in scope to claim 17 as presented in the immediately preceding Amendment and as found by the Examiner to recite allowable subject matter. Accordingly claim 28 is also believed to be in condition for allowance.

New claim 29 is in independent form and is similar in scope to claim 16 as presented in the immediately preceding Amendment, but with the additional limitation that one of the slots is at an angle, other than a right angle, from another of the slots. Support for this limitation is found, for example in FIG. 4 of the present application (comparing the three slots 24 in the upper part of the drawing with the two slots 24 in the lower part of the drawing).

At least with this additional limitation, claim 29 is believed to be clearly patentably distinguished from the Broaddus reference, wherein each angle between slots 17 (FIG. 1) is a right angle.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-3460.

Respectfully submitted,

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